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## NOTES AND QUERIES.

FOLK-LORE OF ANTHROPOLOGY. The Yanans of northern California are among the latest of the Amerinds to be connected with the peoples of southern Asia by would-be ethnologists. In his account of the Yánádis of Nellore in the "Bulletin of the Madras Government Museum" (1901, iv. 88), Mr. T. Ranga Rao observes that "the editor of the 'Baptist Mission Review' . . . suggests a probable connection between the Yánádis of southern India and the Yanans of north California." The latter are said to be "a North American tribe, who differ from the other Indian tribes of California in physique and language, and who, according to tradition, went from the far East to California."

FROG-EATING. Two of the classes, or sections, of the Yánádis, a Telugu-speaking people of Nellore, in the Indian Presidency of Madras, are, according to Mr. T. Ranga Rao (Bull. Madras Gov. Mus., 1901, iv. 93), known as "the frog-eaters" and "the non-frog-eaters." The Yánádis of the North Arcot district (called Chenchus from the deity they worship) are "non-frog-eaters, and do not permit the Kappala, or 'frog-eaters,' even to touch their pots."

DUTCH PROVERBS. Dr. Stoett's dictionary of Dutch proverbs, of which the last part appeared in 1901, makes a volume of 744 pages. The index counts 28 pages, and the book contains 2212 proverbs, with notes, etc.

ARABIAN NIGHTS. Volume v. of the "Bibliographie des ouvrages arabes ou relatifs aux Arabes publiés dans l'Europe chrétienne de 1810 à 1885," by Professor Chauvin, of the University of Liège, — the second part (xii. + 297 pp.), appeared in 1901, — is devoted to the "Thousand and One Nights."

FOLK-LORE OF EASTERN EUROPE. In 1902, M. Lazarre Sainéan, known from his contributions on Roumanian folk-lore, etc., began a course of lectures at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes, Paris, on "The Folk-Lore of Eastern Europe."

"MOTHER GOOSE" DINNER. The 120th *Dîner de Ma Mère l'Oye* was held on January 31, 1902, at the Hôtel des Sociétés Savantes, Paris. M. Charles Beauquier, president of the "Société des Traditions Populaires," was in the chair, and there were present M. Emile Blément, A. Certeux, C. Rubbens, H. Cordier, G. Fouju, A. Rhône, P. Sébillot, P. Y. Sébillot. The first "Mother Goose Dinner" was held on February 1, 1882, with M. Gaston Paris presiding.

STUPIDITY OF DEITIES. In connection with "substitution" (*e. g.* gilt paper for gold), in offerings to deities, as practiced in Annam, S. Reinach

(*L'Anthropologie*, 1902, xiii. 135) remarks that "the idea of the stupidity of the gods is more widespread than would at first appear to be the case." The boy of a friend of M. Félicien Challaye, who reports the incident, replied, when asked why he burned for Buddha bits of gilt paper instead of real gold : "You *know*; you would n't believe. Buddha is very stupid. He does not know, he believes." The Annamites are not the only ones who take this view of the matter.

COLLECTION OF ESTHONIAN FOLK-LORE. The article of O. Kallas, "Uebersicht über das Sammeln estnischen Runen," in the "Finnisch-Ugrische Forschungen" (Helsingfors, 1902, ii. 8-41), *résumés* the work done since the beginning of the nineteenth century in the collection of Estonian folk-songs, etc. The large collections of Hurt and Eisen, still going on, contained, among other things :—

	Hurt (1890).	Eisen (1897).
Folk-songs . . . . .	40,500	10,314
Märchen, tales, legends traditions, etc. . . . .	8,500	12,906
Riddles . . . . .	37,000	10,547
Proverbs . . . . .	45,000	7,093
Items of superstition, folk-lore, etc. . . . .	52,000	23,215

These figures give some idea of the great activity of the folklorists of the Finno-Ugrian countries.

PRIMITIVE MATHEMATICS. In a paper read before the International Folk-Lore Congress (Paris) in 1900, Th. Volkov gave some account of "folk-science" in the Ukraine region of European Russia. In 1897 the Statistical Bureau of the Government of Poltava issued a detailed *questionnaire* on popular mathematical procedures. Some interesting facts concerning addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, etc., were brought out. Surface-measurement is done by division into squares and triangles, — the triangle is measured by making it into a square and halving that. To measure the height of an inaccessible object, such as a tree, the Ukrainian peasant "takes a stick of his own height, then goes away from the tree to such a distance that, having laid down and set up his stick at his feet, he can see the top of the tree and the top of his stick in the same line ; after which he measures the distance from his head to the base of the tree."

A. F. C.

FOLK-MEDICINE. A case of folk-medicine has lately come to my notice in Washington. A colored cook afflicted with shingles was told that if she would cut off the tail of a black cat and rub the end of said tail on her shingles it would cure her. This was done and it is affirmed that the woman began immediately to get well. I have not heard, however, whether she is fully cured or not.

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